

Our Community News

Volunteers reporting on community issues in Monument, Palmer Lake, and the surrounding Tri-Lakes area



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Local Events

See pages 27-31 for details of these and many other local events.

- **Carrie Newcomer Concert at TLCA**, Wed., Apr. 5, 7-9 p.m.
- **WMMI A Tale of Two Hustedes**, Mon., Apr. 10, 7-8:30 p.m.
- **Seniors: Basic ballet for ages 50+**, Wed., Apr. 12, 10-11 a.m.
- **LPSD Long-Range Planning Open House**, Wed., Apr. 12, 5:30-7:30 p.m.
- **WMMI: Mining/Permitting on Forest Service Lands**, Thu., Apr. 13, 6 p.m.
- **Advanced Care Planning**, Fri., Apr. 14, 10 a.m.-noon
- **Monument Library: AARP Drive Smart**, Sat., Apr. 15, 12:45-5 p.m.
- **Palmer Lake Easter Egg Hunt**, Sat., Apr. 15, 10 a.m.
- **PLVFD Pancake Breakfast**, Sun., Apr. 16, 7-11 a.m.
- **Monument's Citizens Police Academy**, Tues., Apr. 18-May 30, 7-10 p.m.
- **Historical Society: The Alexander Film Company**, Thu., Apr. 20, 7 p.m.
- **LPHS Spring Play: The Giver**, Thu.-Sat., Apr. 20-22, 7 p.m.
- **Foot Care Clinic**, Fri., Apr. 21
- **Hazel Miller at TLCA**, Fri., Apr. 21, 7 p.m.
- **Great American Cleanup**, Sat., Apr. 22, 9 a.m.-noon
- **Foot Care Clinic**, Fri., Apr. 29
- **Tri-Lakes Silver Alliance Spring Fling Party**, Fri., Apr. 29, 5:30 -8 p.m.
- **Black Forest Arts & Crafts Guild 53rd Annual Spring Show & Sale**, Thu.-Sun., May 4-7
- **Neighborhood Wildfire Leadership Summit**, Sat., May 6, 9 a.m.-noon
- **Rocky Mountain Music Alliance: Works for Violin, Oboe, & Piano**, Sat., May 6, 7 p.m.
- **41st Annual Pine Forest Spring Show & Sale**, Sat.-Sun., May 6-7
- **Billy Bob Thornton & the Boxmasters at TLCA**, Tue., May 9, 7 p.m. ■



Above: On Saturday, March 11, dozens of people gathered to watch the unveiling of a new road in Monument. This road, leading to Monument Lake, was named Swenson Lane after Kevin Swenson (center) to recognize him for all the service he has done for the community and to show the town's appreciation. Swenson was the first police officer to be hired in Monument and worked for the Monument Police Department from 1978 to 2011. However, even before he was a police officer, Swenson served the community as a lifeguard for Monument Lake. Monument Trustee Jeff Bornstein, Monument Town Manager Chris Lowe, Monument Chief of Police Jake Shirk, and Chamber of Commerce President Teri Hayes all attended to dedicate this new road as well as present a certificate to Swenson as a way of honoring him. Also attending were Trustee Greg Coopman, Mayor Pro Tem Don Wilson and Kevin Swenson's wife, Claudia Swenson. Photo by Lauren Jones.

Palmer Lake Town Council, March 9 and 23

Board closes popular hiking trail, moves to raise fines

By James Howald

In March, the Palmer Lake Town Council met twice, on March 9 and 23. After a debate spanning several months, on March 23 the council voted to restrict access to the popular trail adjacent to the town's reservoirs, due to the risk of fire. They also voted to approve the vacation of a road and a minor subdivision request from developer Jim Stiltner. In addition, they filled a vacant position on the town's Planning Commission, discussed the proposed design for the bridge that will connect the Palmer Lake park to downtown Palmer Lake, approved Colorado

Intergovernmental Risk Sharing Agency (CIRSA) as the town's insurance carrier, and agreed to hire a consultant to review bids to upgrade the sound system in the Town Hall building.

Hikers and fires banned from Palmer Lake reservoirs and trail

Town Administrator Cathy Green-Sinnard told the board that the Palmer Lake Fire Department had met with the Coalition for the Upper South Platte (CUSP) and some members of the community to discuss the town's efforts at fire miti-

gation. A consensus emerged from that discussion that the town should close the parking lot and the trail to the town's reservoirs due to the extremely dry conditions and the risk of fire, Green-Sinnard said, mentioning that the Fire Department reported extinguishing campfires left smoldering by hikers. Green-Sinnard suggested the board should consider raising the fines for open fires, smoking, and dogs off their leashes at the town's reservoirs.

Board members Paul Banta and Mark Schuler proposed raising the fines

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Wildfire preparedness in Palmer Lake

By the Coalition for the Upper South Platte

As part of the National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy, the Coalition for the Upper South Platte (CUSP) is partnering with the Town of Palmer Lake and the Palmer Lake Volunteer Fire Department to increase fuels mitigation awareness in the Palmer Lake community by offering free home assessments and a chipper day. Some of the techniques are:

- Raking the needles away from your structure
- Looking for gaps in structure integrity where embers could lodge
- Trimming back tree branches and shrubs near your home

These techniques can go a long way to protecting your home against wildfire. For a limited time this year, CUSP staff is reaching out to homeowners in Palmer Lake to conduct free in-depth home and

property assessments to make site-specific recommendations to reduce wildfire risk. Funding for this effort is limited, so we encourage Palmer Lake residents to schedule an assessment soon. CUSP can be reached at 719-748-0033.

CUSP also will host a weekend of events as part of the National Community Wildfire Preparedness Day that will support community efforts to reduce wildfire risk. On May 6 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., residents of Palmer Lake will be able to transport slash from their property to a site on County Line Road where it will be chipped for free. It's important to note that as you accumulate slash for chipping, the branches must be arranged in a parallel fashion with all butt ends pointed to the rear of the vehicle for ease of feeding the chipper.

Items not acceptable are stumps, roots, lumber, tires, dirt, household trash,

metals, weeds, grasses, and pine needles unattached to branches.

This is directly related to reducing wildfire risk in Palmer Lake. All efforts are funded by grants or donations. CUSP is a nonprofit organization that has worked in the Palmer Lake community since 2014.

On May 7 at the Baptist Road trail-head access to the Santa Fe Trail, CUSP will host a fundraising event called Pack for the Platte, where you can sign up to take the arduous pack test that every firefighter must pass each year and see how you stack up. Alongside our wildland firefighting crew and other firefighters, you will try to carry 45 pounds for three miles in 45 minutes. Donations from this event will be used to support CUSP's Wildland Fire Team. For more information, please visit www.cusp.ws/P4P/. ■